



Natural Surroundings

WYNDHAM LAND TRUST, INC. • SINCE 1975

Conserving the Natural Resources of Northeastern Connecticut

Fall 2024

About The Wyndham Land Trust

The Wyndham Land Trust, Inc. is engaged in the preservation of natural resources in Windham County, Connecticut. Its emphasis is on wildlife habitat, especially where unique or particularly fragile assemblages of animals and plants exist or may be expected to exist. Its properties are open to the public for the quiet enjoyment of nature. Land may be acquired by donation or purchase. Since WLT enjoys 501 (c) 3 status, donations to it are deductible under IRS rules, a feature which sometimes proves attractive! Our work is supported by dues, donations, grants and a very modest endowment income. Members enjoy an annual potluck supper, generally in the fall.

**Inquiries may be directed to the Wyndham Land Trust, Inc.,
PO Box 302
Pomfret Center, CT 06259
or to info@wyndhamlandtrust.org
Please see our web site
www.wyndhamlandtrust.org
Phone (860) 963-2090.
Your comments, questions and suggestions are most welcome.**

Wyndham Land Trust Board of Directors

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RIDE FOR OPEN SPACE 2024

The 2nd Annual Ride for Open Space was held on July 16th, 2024 staging from our beautiful Cabbage Hill Preserve in Woodstock (acquired in 2021 thanks to an anonymous donor).

Approximately 50 riders participated this year and were treated to a great trail ride through our Nightingale Forest property and some private lands. Riders returned to a delicious lunch provided by the Rolling Tomato brick oven pizza, followed by Ben & Jerry's ice cream.



We've established a supportive fan base and plan to grow the numbers of riders and sponsors each year. Cabbage Hill is a terrific place to host a ride from with plenty of horse trailer parking and level ground.

Our ride committee consists of Sue Jackson, Penny Gladstone-Kaiser, Nina Kneeland, and myself. We added sponsors this year that contributed just over \$5700. This enabled us to cover 100% of the expenses for the event. We would like to thank the following sponsors:

Advanced Back & Wellness, BSTRA, D&S Construction Services, Foster Corporation, Green Valley Hospitality, Jewett City Bank, Linemaster Switch, NE Plasma, Nina Kneeland, PHTA, Scott Metal Products, Silverback Distribution, Spirol International Corporation, St. Onge & Brouillard, Tanheath Hounds, The Inn at Woodstock Hill, and Weiss, Hale & Zahansky

All rider entry fees and proceeds—totaling nearly \$10,000—were donated to our Hillandale Woods Campaign. We aim to complete this campaign by 2025 with the purchase of this key parcel, which will connect to surrounding WLT properties.

Penny Foisey,
WLT Treasurer & Equestrian Liaison

Welcome

We welcome the following new members:

Lisa Arends, Angela Authier,
Norman Berman, John Birtz,
Debra Carlson,
Donna and Paul Carreaux,
W Thomas Chase, Jesse Farnham,
John Frank, Gerry Gagne, Ellen Gilmartin,
Jo Ann Hauck, Dan Jackson,
Becky Kallagher, Robert Kenyon,
Bob Leeman, Ellen Lehtimaki,
Marybeth Leonard, Sharon Loughlin,
Wanda Macho, Dan Malo, Jeffrey Otto,
James Salsich, Lorna Sheltor,
Adam Sposato, G Tod Stevenson,
Gary and Terri Valade, Martin Weiss.

WINTER SOLSTICE GATHERING



Saturday, December 21, 2024. 3-5pm.
Lyon Preserve, Wrights Crossing Road, Pomfret Center.

Please join us at the Lyon Preserve in Pomfret.

Saturday, December 21, 3pm as the sun sets on the shortest day of the year.

A scavenger hunt will help everybody keep moving and warm.

We will provide yummy snacks!

Be ready to take lots of photos, make memories.

The simple things are always the best.

GREAT FOR ALL AGES!

Parking lot is available at the end of the driveway near the barn.

THOMPSON: BLACKMORE FOREST

After years of work by the board, we are pleased to announce to acquisition of a 275-acre wooded parcel from the Scouting America, Narragansett Council. The land is on the CT/RI border and abuts the Buck Hill Scout Reservation in Burrillville, RI. To the west it connects with our LeClair preserve and Quaddick State Park.

"We've been working for several years to protect this property," explained Mike St. Lawrence, President of the Wyndham Land Trust. "We identified it as a key link in the wildlife corridor between Quaddick State Park/State Forest owned by Connecticut and state-owned parks and forests in both Rhode Island and Massachusetts. This represents a very large forest block—almost 15,000 acres—that provides critical wildlife habitat in Southern New England."

"In addition, the new preserve, which we are calling Blackmore Forest, will protect extensive wetlands, including brooks that feed into Quaddick Pond, the Five Mile River, and ultimately the Thames River and Long Island Sound. It's a historic site with partial remnants of Thompson's Town Farm, formerly an alms house for the poor and destitute in town."

The Land Trust is working with the Thompson Trails Committee to map and blaze the existing network of trails on the property. Stay tuned!



BERRY

The Berry family recently donated three parcels of woodland totaling 15 acres to the Land Trust. The properties sit along Mashentuck Road in Killingly, close to the home where Louise and Richard Berry raised their five children. Louise Berry was well regarded in the Quiet Corner and touched many lives. She was best known as the school Superintendent

for the Town of Brooklyn and, at the time of her retirement in 2016, was the longest serving school Superintendent in Connecticut history. She also served in the 1970s as State Senator for the 29th district. Richard was best known as an executive of Rogers Corporation, where he worked for more than 40 years.

"We are pleased to donate this property in loving memory of our parents, Louise S. and Richard C. Berry," said Robin Berry. "We're grateful to be able to honor our parent's wish that the land surrounding our family home be held in conservation. My siblings and I have fond memories of enjoying this property and are delighted it will now be accessible to others."



FUNDRAISING DRIVE FOR HILLANDALE WOODS

The fundraising campaign to protect Hillandale Woods has been very successful thanks to generous donations from many of you, coupled with the \$50,000 matching funds from Keith and Elaine Knowlton. We recently received a \$100,000 grant from the Baffin Foundation, and now have over \$400,000 of the \$635,000 that we need to raise. We have until March 2025 to close the deal, and are hoping that end-of-the-year charitable donations from members and supporters will help us get closer to the target.

You can donate to the fundraising drive from the GIVE TO THE CAMPAIGN button on our secure web site or by mailing a check to our PO Box and writing "Hillandale Woods" on the memo line. (Mailing a check avoids online processing fees.)

Thanks to all of you that have already contributed. We are confident that we can protect this iconic property that holds so much history for the Wyndham Land Trust, and we are humbled by your generosity.

WALKTOBER

Two preserves that have grown recently were featured during The Last Green Valley's Walktober program.

As a long time TLGV partner, WLT participates in Walktober to offer a few steps in a new place every year. Different preserves in different towns, Nightingale Forest in Pomfret and Tamler Preserve in Thompson had similarities that are reflected throughout Northeast CT. History and stories live in the forests.

Andy Rzeznikiewicz took a group into the Nightingale Forest for a unique opportunity to explore this preserve, accessible



only on an organized walk like this. A gorgeous day had hikers experiencing old foundations, a mill site and grave yard in the middle of the forest.



Jeff Stefanik had an equally enthusiastic group at the Tamler Preserve on another bright but a bit more chilly morning, as the leaves crunched under foot in the remote woods of the "Widow Hannah Barrett Road". Views included old foundations in these woods as well.

SHOW YOU CARE

You can now buy quality Wyndham Land Trust gear—t-shirts, sweatshirts, and baseball caps—from our online store.



Perfect gifts for the holiday season or just because. Although the pricing is such that the Land Trust makes very little profit, purchasing gear is a great way to show your neighbors and friends that you support the mission of the land trust. The store offers a variety of styles and colors, and all sizes from S to XXL are available. Check it out at <https://www.bonfire.com/store/wyndham-land-trust/>.

WEE WANDER ~ FIRST DAY. FRESH AIR. Choose to *improve quality of life a step at a time!*

Family-friendly, great parking, and the wonders of nature on our doorstep.

Join the Wyndham Land Trust at 1pm on New Year's Day 2025.

Find art in nature, big leaves, birds, a bat house, a picturesque barn, and peace & quiet on the

46-acre Lyon Preserve in Pomfret.

WON'T YOU BE OUR NEIGHBOR?

What Makes a Good Neighbor to the Preserve?

Living near a preserve offers unique access to the beauty and peace of nature. Here are a few ways we can work together to protect this space for generations to come:

· Respect Boundaries

Refrain from expanding personal property into preserve areas.



Maintaining clear boundaries helps protect native plants and wildlife from unintended disturbances.

· Leave No Trace

Avoid leaving trash or pet waste in or near the preserve. Bring along waste bags, and if you see any litter, consider helping out by taking it with you when you leave.

· Be the "Eyes and Ears" of the Preserve

If you notice anything unusual or concerning—such as invasive species, trail damage, or unauthorized activity—please reach out to the land trust. Your vigilance helps us protect and preserve this area for everyone.

· Spread the Word

Encourage friends and neighbors to join the land trust. More members mean more support, which directly impacts the preserve's future. Together, we can build a stronger, more connected community dedicated to conservation.

· Get Involved!

Volunteer with the land trust, attend (or lead!) a local nature walk. Being involved helps deepen the connection to this shared resource.

Together, we can ensure the preserve remains a haven for both wildlife and our community. Thank you for your partnership in caring for these valuable spaces!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

With all the stresses in life, there is one sure way to feel better. Being outside in nature has been proven to improve people's mental and physical health. The Wyndham Land Trust works hard to preserve and protect open space in Northeast Connecticut so folks can enjoy the outdoors. As members and supporters of the Land Trust, you should be proud of enabling this public benefit for us and for future generations.

Happy Holidays, Mike



The Wyndham Land Trust, Inc.
P.O. Box 302
Pomfret Center, CT 06259-0302

Mail in the form below to renew or go to www.wyndhamlandtrust.org and renew online (Ways to Give->Join).

THANK YOU The Wyndham Land Trust, Inc.

Individual Membership \$25

Family Membership \$35

Supporter \$100

Patron \$500

Benefactor \$1,000

Donation to Land Acquisition Fund: \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Make checks payable to
Wyndham Land Trust
PO Box 302, Pomfret Center, CT 06259

(Gift Memberships Available by Calling: 860-963-2090)

A complimentary membership to WLT is given with any donation. We appreciate you.